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A2
cont. vacuum pump 16 is connected to the ink feed port 187 of the ink cartridge 180 (S27). Next, the vacuum pump 16 is driven and air is sucked and removed from the ink cartridge 180 so as to decompress it (S28). Next, the ink feed port 187 is closed (S30), and the ink feed tube 26 connected to the ink tank 18 is connected to the air inlet 185 of the ink cartridge 180 (S31), and ink is fed from the ink tank 18 to the ink cartridge 180 (S32). When the ink charging into the ink cartridge 180 is finished, the air inlet 185 and the ink feed port 187 are closed (S34) and the ink charging procedure is finished.

Please replace the paragraph that runs from page 25, line 36 to page 26, line 12 with the following paragraph:

A3 An ink cartridge 180H of Fig. 9B has one partition wall 212 extending from the upper surface 194c of the ink container 194 to the lower portion. Since the predetermined interval is spaced between the lower end of the partition wall 212 and the bottom surface of the ink container 194, the bottom portion of the ink container 194 is communicated. The ink cartridge 180H has two containing chambers 213a and 213b divided by the partition wall 212. The bottom portions of the containing chambers 213a and 213b are communicated with each other. The volume of the containing chamber 213a on the side of the ink feed port 187 is larger than that of the containing chamber 213b backward from the ink feed port 187. It is preferable that the volume of the containing chamber 213b is smaller than a half of the volume of the containing chamber 213a.

Please replace the paragraph that runs from page 33, line 28 to page 34, line 10 with the following paragraph:

A4 In an ink cartridge 220A, when ink is fed from a check valve 228, a second containing chamber 225b with an actuator 106 mounted may not be charged with ink fully due to a capillary

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path 227. Further, even if ink is charged from an ink feed port 230, it is difficult to charge a first containing chamber 225a with ink fully due to the capillary force of the capillary path 227.

Further, it is more difficult to charge the cavity 162 of the actuator 106 mounted to the containing chamber 225b with ink without leaving air bubbles there. In this case, when the ink charging device and the ink charging method shown in Figs. 5 to 8 are used, the containing chambers 225a and 225b and the cavity 162 of the actuator 106 mounted to the containing chamber 225b can be easily charged with ink. For example, when the ink charging device shown in Fig. 5 is used, firstly, the ink cartridge 220A is installed in the vacuum container 14. Next, the check valve 228 is closed and air is sucked from the ink feed port 230 by the vacuum pump 10 so as to decompress the ink cartridge 220A. Next, to charge the ink cartridge 220A with ink, ink may be charged from the ink feed port 230 or ink may be charged from the check valve 228 after closing the ink feed port 230.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 34 with the following paragraph:

In an ink cartridge 220B, when ink is fed from an opening 250 formed in the upper part of the ink feed chamber 225a, the second containing chamber 225b with the actuator 106 mounted may not be charged with ink fully due to a porous member 242 and the capillary path 227. Further, even if ink is charged from the ink feed port 230, it is difficult to charge the first containing chamber 225a with ink fully due to the porous member 242 and the capillary force of the capillary path 227. Further, it is more difficult to charge the cavity 162 of the actuator 106 mounted to the containing chamber 225b with ink without leaving air bubbles. In this case, when the ink charging device and the ink charging method shown in Figs. 5 to 8 are used, the containing chambers 225a and 225b and the cavity 162 of the actuator 106 mounted to the

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containing chamber 225b can be easily charged with ink. For example, when the ink charging device shown in Fig. 5 is used, firstly, the ink cartridge 220B is installed in the vacuum container 14. Next, the ink feed port 230 is closed and air is sucked from the opening 250 formed in the upper part of the containing chamber 225a by the vacuum pump 10 so as to decompress the ink cartridge 220B. Next, to charge the ink cartridge 220B with ink, ink may be charged from the ink feed port 230 or ink may be charged from the opening 250 after closing the ink feed port 230.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 40 with the following paragraph:

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Fig. 17A is a drawing showing a comparison example. The through hole 1c and the cavity 162 are not inkphobic, so that ink drops adhere to the actuator 106 and the through hole 1c and stay there. Therefore, there is the possibility that the actuator 106 may detect by mistake that there is ink in the ink cartridge though there is no ink in the same.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

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14. (Amended) A liquid container comprising:
a container body; and
a piezo-electric device for detecting a consumption condition of a liquid in said container body, said piezo-electric device being provided with a cavity connecting to an inside of said container body;
wherein an internal pressure of said container body is reduced to a pressure lower than an atmospheric pressure, and
wherein said container body is charged with a liquid.
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Please add the following new claims: